

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 06165 231435Z

45

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 231200Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4717

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 6165

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, ENRG EG IS

SUBJECT: OIL EXPLORATION IN GULF OF SUEZ

A. CAIRO 1532; B.STATE 26556; C. TEL AVIV 875

1. AMOCO REPS ARE EXPRESSING IMPATIENCE WITH CONTINUED INABILITY TO CONDUCT SEISMIC EXPLORATIONS EAST OF MEDIAN LINE OF GULF OF SUEZ IN AMOCO CONCESSION AREA. DEPT WILL REMEMBER EXCHANGE LAST FEBRUARY (REFTELS) IN WHICH AMOCO CEASED EXPLORATION IN ITS CONCESSION AFTER ISRAELI PATROL BOATS INTERFERED WITH SEISMIC SHIPS WHICH HAD MADE TURN AROUND IN AREA EAST OF MEDIAN LINE. AMOCO CONCERNED THAT, BECAUSE OF OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL, AND STATEMENTS BY MINISTER OF PETROLEUM THAT GULF OF SUEZ NOW OPEN TO INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING, EGPC MIGHT PUT PRESSURE ON AMOCO IMPLEMENT EXPLORATION AGREEMENT DEADLINES.

2. AMOCO REPS WONDERED WHETHER SHIPS USING SUEZ CANAL ARE TRANSITING EAST OR WEST SIDE OF GULF OF SUEZ OR IF ANYONE HAS DEFINED SHIPPING CHANNEL IN GULF OF SUEZ. IF SHIPS ARE USING EAST SIDE, AMOCO BELIEVES IT MIGHT BE ABLE TO COMPLETE SEISMIC WORK BASED ON FACT THAT AREA NEW TO INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING.

3. AS LONG AS MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM DOES NOT OFFICIALLY INVOKE TERMS OF AMOCO AGREEMENT REGARDING COMPLETION OF SEISMIC STUDIES AND DRILLING OF WELLS, AMOCO CAN SAFELY POSTPONE FURTHER

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WORK ON CONCESSION. IMPORTANCE OF GULF OF SUEZ IN FUTURE OIL

DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL, HOWEVER, IS GROWING (SEE CAIRO 5793)
AND MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM MAY NOT BE PATIENT FOREVER. IF
DEPT HAS ANY INFORMATION ON CURRENT SHIPPING ROUTES IN GULF
OF SUEZ WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, EXPLORATORY DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO06165
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750218-0004
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750622/aaaaatzw.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OIL EXPLORATION IN GULF OF SUEZ A. CAIRO 1532; B.STATE 26556; C. TEL AVIV 875
TAGS: ECON, ENRG, EG, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006